

CONFIDENTIAL

Chrono.

20 MAR 1950

Director of Central Intelligence

Assistant Director for Reports and Estimates

The appointment of professional personnel for limited periods

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1. In the recruitment of personnel for our Economics and other divisions we have experienced considerable difficulty arising from the reluctance of professional economists to forego permanently the opportunity of contributing articles to technical journals, participating in discussions in professional meetings, and other means of maintaining their professional standing and reputation. Recent informal conversations which [] has had with economists outside the government have indicated that some highly competent persons on University faculties might be willing to accept a two-year assignment and that the University authorities might cooperate if they could expect such persons to return to University duties following such an assignment.

2. In order for such a plan of recruitment to be successful it will be necessary to develop carefully an interest in our work by conversations with suitable individuals stressing both the opportunities for public service and the opportunity in this Agency for dealing with economic problems of great professional interest.

3. It is believed that a panel of professional economists could be set up in the above manner from which we could draw a small but important part of our staff, possibly five or six persons at any one time, each serving as a full time employee for about two years in an existing vacancy in our authorized Table of Organization.

4. Such a plan would have many advantages. It would bring into the organization a small group of the highest professional competence with a fresh point of view. It also would provide a panel from which we could expand our staff rapidly in special emergencies if that should become necessary.

5. In view of the great difficulty we have encountered in securing an adequate staff and in view of the advantages that would be derived from drawing upon the Universities for a part of our staff, it is recommended that approval be given to the proposal indicated in paragraph 3 above.

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THEODORE BABBITT

DEC:LJC:AT:gw
DCI (Orig & 1)

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